

● PSF: OSS - August 1944

Subject File

Box 168

Box 168

PSF: OSS

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

~~RESTRICTED~~

WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 August 1944

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

Will you please hand the attached memorandum to the President? I believe it will be of interest to him.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan
Director

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I think you will be interested in the following report from our Bern representative:

"For some weeks now the evidence has been accumulating that the Germans are preparing for the eventuality of a forced departure from a large part of France. Here are some of the reports we received giving the signs of this. Many German administrative services are leaving Paris for Nancy, and a special SS detachment has been sent to Nancy to "purify" the city and prepare it to receive headquarters that are being transferred from Western France. The Todt organization left Bordeaux about two weeks ago and sent back towards the Paris area several trains of fortification materials. Several thousand trucks have been requisitioned in the Paris area and divided up into detachments of 150 to 200 to prepare for particular measures of evacuation. Several hundred specialized railway employees have arrived in Paris with the particular task of supervising traffic destined for Metz, Strasbourg, Belfort, and other points on the East frontier of France. Recently, over a thousand German woman workers left Paris for Germany. Transportation special lists have arrived at Lyon to study the possibilities of withdrawal from there towards the French frontier. Officers in the engineering corps have been recalled to Paris from the Mediterranean coast."

Johnson

William L. Johnson

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 August 1944.

file
PSF
OSS

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

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Will you please hand it to him?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan,
Director.

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By Authority of

CIA

007622

By *DBS*

Date

MAR

8 1974

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

2 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Here is a report received from our Bern office
regarding Free Germany Opinions in Switzerland:

"The leader of the real military opposition to Hitler is in the Pskov region on the Eastern Front; one of the leading figures is General Busch. (This report was made by source before the rumors of General Busch's suicide.)

"The Generals in the East are only holding off until another Stalingrad occurs which would prove beyond doubt Hitler's military weakness. Nine months ago the opposition Generals in the East and those in the West who were behind the coup on 20 July ceased all efforts at negotiation.

"The leaders in the East are following the Tauroggen policy.

[OSS WASHINGTON COMMENT: In 1812 a few Prussian Generals reached a separate agreement with Russia despite their King and Commander. The agreement was inspired by and aimed at the Napoleonic threat. Several times in this war the Free Germany leaders in Moscow have exhorted German commanders similarly to defy political authority to save their fatherland.]

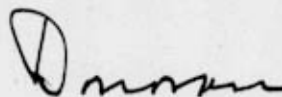
These leaders in the east will try to bring about a peace with the USSR after German defeat is a certainty, entertaining the possibility that the armistice will be signed at Tauroggen. Junior officers are picking out the known anti-Nazis

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MAR 8 1974
By [Signature] Date

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favoring socialistic ideals, and the Eastern Generals are organizing Vertrauensraete (soldiers' councils apparently similar to those organized in the German army by opposition officers towards the end of the last World War) among the troops. This is being done as a precaution against anarchy when the collapse occurs."



William J. Donovan
Director

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By DBS MAR 8 1974

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3 August 1944

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Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

I think the President will be interested
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Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan
Director

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

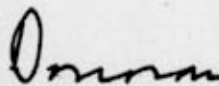
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3 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I think you will be interested in the following report from our Bern representative:

"I have passed on to you several reports to the general effect that Hitler was sending his best troops to Normandy in the hope of holding up the Anglo-Saxons until the extent of the Russian advance made them so uneasy that they would be prepared to negotiate with him. Now, from another source, who is competent in military matters, we have a report that the reason for this is somewhat different. The SS troops and other elite units are being sent West while the inferior troops are being sent to the East, because Hitler is afraid that the inferior units, if sent West, would seize the opportunity to desert, while in the East they will fight on out of fear of the Russians. This may also explain the reason for sending such a large percentage of SS divisions and fanatical young Nazis to the West front. The fanatical Nazis can be counted upon, whereas the old-line German Wehrmacht forces would be much more inclined to surrender to the Anglo-Saxons in view of the hopelessness of the struggle."



William J. Donovan
Director

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3 August 1944

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

Will you please hand the attached
memorandum to the President? I believe it
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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan,
Director

~~RESTRICTED~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I believe the following report will be of interest to you:

GREECE

"Here is a report on the Greek situation based on the statements of several impartial and well-informed neutral observers. The situation in Greece outside of Athens is tragic beyond description, very largely on account of the activity of the Communist organization EAM and the consequent German reprisals. At present this organization, EAM is composed of the worst type of individual, and its chiefs are either former degraded army officers or notorious Communists. By the creation of chaos, poverty, and discontent, it is trying to lay the foundation for a Communist regime in Greece.

"The EAM organization is violently anti-American and anti-British. It is hated by the population almost as much as the Germans and the Bulgars. Groups of EAM enter a village, loot and plunder it, and mishandle the population. They also carry out indiscriminate sabotage and the assassination of Germans in the neighborhood of villages and towns, and then disappear. Then the Germans, or their satellite forces, arrive and, as reprisals, exterminate the population, burn the village and the neighboring country-side. At present, about a thousand villages have been burned and almost half a million people killed. A million and a half people are living in the woods and caves, dying of starvation and disease.

"Due to partisan activity, the occupation authorities have forbidden the dispatch of Red Cross supplies to the provinces. Certain provinces, particu-

larly in the Peloponnesus, where the EAM proclaimed a Communist republic, are cut off from the rest of the world, and an organized slaughter is said to be under way. The EAM organization has more or less openly proclaimed civil war against other more conservative partisan organizations, and the resultant situation has permitted the Germans to withdraw troops from Greece for use elsewhere.

"Further, the Germans have thereby been able to form from among the Greek population, especially in those areas under Communist control, so-called security battalions to fight the Communist partisans in order to establish tranquillity. Thus, we have Greek fighting against Greek, with the Germans standing by content, since anything that weakens Greece or the unity of the partisans can only profit Germany.

"Greek public opinion wants this state of affairs to cease. They desire that the EAM be proclaimed as outlaws. The fact that patriotic war veterans, many of whose families have been wiped out by the EAM or by the Germans have been characterized as traitors because they attacked the EAM is greatly resented. Greek public opinion demands that partisan warfare and sabotage be carried out according to pre-arranged military plan and in a manner to avoid undue massacre of innocent people under the guise of reprisal, that at present the partisans should limit their main effort to organization and preparation, and only to begin large-scale operations in connection with an Allied landing. If the present state of things is permitted to continue, and if an early Allied landing is not possible, the EAM may try to proclaim a Bolshevist state and proceed to slaughter all who are against it. Plans of the EAM providing for the confiscation of houses in the Athens residential district for division among its members have already been discovered. The new Greek Prime Minister, by his show of resistance to the EAM, has now won some favor among the masses

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of the people, but they want him to be still more
emphatic."

W. J. Donovan
William J. Donovan
Director.

PSF: OSS

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3 August 1944

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

Will you please hand the attached
memorandum to the President?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan,
Director.

~~RESTRICTED~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The following report was received from our representative in Bern via radiotelephone:

GERMANY

"Here is a report which we have received from Baden as to the general attitude there regarding the attempt on Hitler's life. People in Baden have begun to doubt the accuracy of the report of the putsch as presented to the German people. They feel that it has been carefully exploited by German propaganda for the purpose of justifying the rigorous measures which are being taken against the inner front. This informant claims to have it from a good source that Hitler was not in the room at the moment of the attack, and that while he may have been about two meters away from the bomb, he was separated by a good strong wall from the place where the bomb exploded. This informant believes that the official version was fabricated in order to create the impression of a miraculous escape and to present Hitler to the people as some one whom God is protecting. This person also points out that the German press has largely stopped speaking of the matter, after having devoted much attention to it on the 21st and 22nd of July. He adds that the measures of reprisal have filled the prisons, and that schools and other large public buildings are being used as supplementary jails. He also reports that since July 24 a series of important conferences have

-2-

taken place in Hitler's headquarters, and the express trains in the direction of the Salzburg region have had many special cars attached to them filled with high officers coming from the West to take part in these conferences.

Donovan
William J. Donovan
Director

PSF: OSS

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~RESTRICTED~~

5 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

I think the President will be interested in the attached memorandum concerning the shortage of paper currency in North Italy. Will you please see that it reaches his desk?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan
Director

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

There follows a report from our Bern representative concerning the shortage of paper currency in North Italy:

"The shortage of paper currency in North Italy is now becoming a real problem. This currency has practically disappeared, and small items as 100 lire are being paid by check rather than by currency. Various reasons are given. One is that the printing press has been bombed out, but it seems more likely that paper currency is now being hoarded in the hope that there will be a favorable valorization when the American and British forces arrive. This explanation seems plausible, particularly if one compares the black market Swiss rate of less than 20¢ for 100 lire as against the rate of \$1.00 which, I understand, is that fixed in southern Italy. The shortage of currency is also a serious problem for the resistance forces, as it makes it difficult for them to finance underground work."

William J. Donovan

William J. Donovan
Director

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

7 August 1944

PSF
OSS

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

I think the President will be interested
in the attached memorandum. Will you please hand it
to him?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston
Acting Director

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By Authority of CIA

007622

By SPS Date MAR 8 1974

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

7 August 1944

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By Authority of CIA

007622

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

By WBS Date MAR 8 1974

Our representative in Bern has just forwarded to us the following report which relates to earlier memoranda from this office to you on the recent attempt on Hitler's life:

The posting of a reward for Arthur Nebe following the posting of a similar reward on Dr. Karl Goerdler, former Mayor of Leipzig, is taken to indicate that the net is being pulled tighter around the opposition group responsible for the coup d'Etat of 20 July 1944.

Nebe is an old Gestapo officer. He has been considered a clever but rather routine official to whom the methods of the Gestapo have sometimes been shocking. It is reported that, for the past ten years, he has maintained contact with one of the Germans who served as emissary for the German opposition group mentioned in the OSS reports of 22 and 25 July 1944 on "The German Coup d'Etat". This accusation that Nebe was involved in the Hitler plot is interpreted as proof that some elements of the Gestapo had a hand in the scheme.

A report of early July 1944 stated that a group associated with Wolff Graf von Helldorf, Chief of Police in Berlin, had joined the opposition group described in previous OSS reports. Helldorf's group was described as being composed of a number of anti-Hitler elements

- 2 -

working separately from the Gestapo. The implication contained in this description, namely that elements in the Gestapo might be involved in the plot against Hitler, seems to be borne out by the present report.

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston
Acting Director

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007622
By ABJ Date MAR 8 1974

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PSF
OSS

9 August 1944

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Would you be kind enough to place
the attached memorandum before the President?
I am sure he will find it of interest.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston,
Acting Director.

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By Authority of CIA

007622

By WBS Date MAR 8 1974

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The following is a paraphrase of a message received from one of our officers in Greece who is observing activities of the Russian Mission there. General Donovan has previously written you about the introduction of this mission by the Russians:

"The Russians deny that they have any political ambitions in Greece and claim they have no knowledge of Zerva's movements. It is my opinion that the mission is without doubt promoted by Tito interest, but taking into account the low rank of officers, there are indications that it is a reporting assignment rather than an executive one.

"Lt. Col. Popov, who is chief of the mission, said he contemplates remaining in Greece for several months, but further states the mission will not be expanded. Popov wishes to do a military reconnaissance of Edes and Elas forces soon. Mission is located in same village as PEEA headquarters. It consists of three Lt. Colonels and four enlisted men. I will keep in close touch with them."

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By *NR*

MAR 8 1974

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston
Acting Director

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Donovan folder 2-44

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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file
25 August 1944 *BSF*
OSS

Miss Grace Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Would you be kind enough to place
the attached memorandum before the President?

I am sure he will find it of interest.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston
Acting Director

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CIA

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By *WPS*

Date

MAR 8 1974

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

25 August 1944

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By Authority of CIA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

007622
By WBS Date MAR 8 1974

General Donovan (who is presently in London) has asked that the following report of a conversation he had on 21 August with Prime Minister Subasich be sent to you from him:

"I talked with Subasich on Monday and he told me the following:

"On August 20 I had a conversation with Adam Pribicevich, Vice President of Draga Mihailovich's Committee. When Pribicevich asked for my help to stop the Partisans' fight against the Chetniks, which is now raging with full intensity and when he asked me whether we could bring about a reconciliation between the Partisans and the Chetniks, I answered:

"The King and the Royal Government cannot decree an agreement between you and the Partisans. You are in the country. You are Vice President of Mihailovich's political body. Only you and your collaborators in the committee can be the active factors bringing about such a reconciliation. I can do no more than what is in my power and that is to advise you, as political factors in this part of Serbia, to give an open declaration, in which you summon the people to turn their weapons around and direct them against the real enemy, and to fight against him. In this case, every one of them will see in the Partisans comrades-in-arms fighting the same enemy. If you wish to fight the Partisans as Communists - conscious of the fact that they are sons of our nation - and to this end, accept the help and collaboration of the Germans, you cannot expect anything from the King, the Royal Government, or the Allies.

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"Pribicevich asked me to arrange a meeting with Topalovich for him. He promised to send me a memorandum on such a meeting, should it take place. I intervened at Allied Headquarters in this respect. Also, I promised to send him the answer of myself and the Royal Government to his proposals and asked him, after this, immediately to return to the country and to carry out our desires and suggestions. Should he and Topalovich be ready to do this, then the Royal Government would do its best to help them in their endeavors. I emphasized that I had obtained from Tito that he should issue in his declaration a summons to all people in Yugoslavia, including the Chetniks, to join the liberation fight.

"I think that the Pribicevich-Topalovich meeting is probably taking place while I am writing this memorandum, and that they will soon leave for the country."

There has also been received from our representative in Bern the following Boston Series report which is of direct relevance to the matters discussed in General Donovan's talk with Subasic. The source of this Series of reports has, in the past, been found to be very reliable:

"During the second week of August, 1944, Hermann Neubacher, German special plenipotentiary for the Balkan area, is reported to have made the following comments on Mihailovich and the political situation in Yugoslavia:

"German intelligence from Mihailovich's camp indicates that the Chetnik movement has widened and is now a more important factor than ever in the Yugoslav situation. The influence of Nedich, Prime Minister of occupied Yugoslavia, has declined to such an extent that he has been supplanted in Serb Nationalists' eyes by Mihailovich, who now has practically full control of the political situation in Serbia. Among Mihailovich's followers there is increasing animosity toward the British who, it is felt, have betrayed the Chetniks by supporting and

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arming the Partisans. In addition, the Chetniks are uneasy over possible political developments in the Balkans consequent on the deterioration of the German military position, the Russian advances, and the obscure situation in Bulgaria.

"Some of Mihailovich's old followers now consider that it is imperative to alter the movement's attitude toward the invaders and to protect Serbia from attack from beyond its borders. The position of those Chetniks who advocate cooperation with the Germans is strengthened by the fact that the latter may soon be forced to evacuate Serbia. This would be the signal for a show-down engagement between the Communists and the Nationalists. Mihailovich therefore probably intends to cooperate with the German Army while it is still in Serbia, in order to lessen the effectiveness of Tito's Partisans. By emphasizing the common fight against Communism, Mihailovich would obtain as many weapons as possible from the Germans. He feels that he will then be able to take over the German positions easily when the German army leaves. Informal negotiations between Mihailovich and the Germans are said to have been initiated, and may possibly be followed by an official conference at a later date.'

"German authorities in Croatia are reliably reported to be complaining of the increasing number of successful supply drops to Tito's Partisans. Among others, General Kammerhofer is said to have asserted that the Partisans now have better armament and there is successful delivery of heavy guns and their parts, artillery, ammunition, shoes, and uniforms. Kammerhofer also complained that he had recently lost five tanks in a few hours due to Partisan use of the latest type of anti-tank gun. It is believed in some German quarters that Tito's forces are receiving parts for tanks, several of which have already been assembled."

Charles S. Cheston
Charles S. Cheston
Acting Director

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